

tsunami that followed, Europe basically decided to hang up on any additional nuclear production. So natural gas prices, which are going to sustain the greatest demand, will go up about 600 percent. Since the start of the year, they have. The situation is so dire that utility companies have switched from natural gas and now begin to burn coal and fuel oil because they simply don't have access to enough natural gas.

This is the problem with the push to quickly move away from fossil fuels before we are ready to transition into other types of energy sources and when you punish the producers of that affordable energy.

Renewables, as laudable as they are—and in Texas, we are an “all of the above” State. We produce more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the Nation. But renewables don't come close to generating enough energy to power our world.

If the United States and our allies scale back production to pursue arbitrary emission benchmarks, that leaves the world turning to countries like Russia and organizations like OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, to provide that energy. So it is no wonder that Russia is a no-show at the U.N. climate summit. They are actually the ones that will stand to benefit the most if other countries eliminate fossil fuels from their fuel mix because other countries around the world will have no choice but to buy more and more Russian energy.

In his remarks yesterday, President Biden said we should view the current price volatility as a call to action rather than a reason to back off our clean energy goals. Well, I disagree. Families are being pummeled by high prices across the board. We don't need to increase that burden by driving up costs or potentially adding an energy crisis to the mix.

As I said, Texas has always been a proud supporter of the “all of the above” energy strategy. We are often recognized for the might of our oil and gas sector. But a lot of folks don't know, as I said, that Texas is a leader in wind energy. Well, we produce about one-quarter of all the wind energy in the United States. If we were a country, we would be the fifth-largest wind energy producer in the world. We don't plan on stopping there. We are also making serious strides in energy innovation through cutting-edge carbon capture and storage projects.

Texas is proof positive that we can strike a balance between conservation, productivity, and economic power, and you can embrace low-emission energy sources without hammering the middle class. But those are not the types of proposals we see from the tax-and-spending spree bill now pending before the House of Representatives. This bill would simply drive up costs for hard-working American families, hurt our energy independence, and benefit our adversaries.

This may impress President Biden's peers in Glasgow, but it is sure to fall flat with the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, during my time in the Senate, I have always tried to honor the work of whistleblowers. Those who speak up about government wrongdoing ought to be rewarded and not sidelined and punished. But that is exactly what happened in the Indian Health Service according to a recently released internal report. Now, this goes back a few years, but it still is a constant reminder of how whistleblowers aren't listened to and bad things happen.

According to this internal report, in August 2006, a Dr. Mark Butterbrodt wrote to his superiors about a fellow doctor. Over the course of years, he repeatedly made extremely serious whistleblower complaints alleging that his colleague, a Dr. Stanley Weber, was sexually assaulting his young patients. He was not alone, because other staff tried to report Weber to those at the very top. His behavior was described as an “open secret.” It is even alleged that the standard orientation for new nurses included a warning to never leave Dr. Weber alone with young boys.

The response from the Indian Health Service senior staff was silence, so the crimes continued. Over a decade after the first whistleblower report, Dr. Weber continued to sexually assault young boys who came to the Indian Health Service for help.

Instead of removing the man who had been repeatedly, credibly accused of sexually abusing his patients, they punished the whistleblower.

Too often in government, we see the people who report wrongdoing being punished.

Numerous senior officials broke the law by failing to report allegations to law enforcement, so the crime could continue. Instead, what did they do? They promoted Dr. Weber to manage those who witnessed his crimes.

By contrast, the report states that Dr. Butterbrodt was “banished”—and the word “banished” is in quotation marks—to the “very remote and rural facility” in Belcourt, ND. So the doctor who was the patriotic American, reporting crimes, eventually resigned, and that was shortly after he was banished to a very remote and rural facility.

This shameful response by the Indian Health Service leadership had a direct impact on future whistleblowers. If you have an environment that discourages whistleblowing, what are you going to get? Less whistleblowing.

This internal report states that “nurses told Dr. Butterbrodt that now he could see why they never speak up.”

It is unconscionable that these whistleblowers were ignored and a pedophile was allowed to act with impunity. That is why I recently sent a letter to the Acting Director of Indian Health Service to ensure that future patients and whistleblowers do not face the same treatment. I want to make sure that processes have been put in place so that this doesn't happen again.

Dr. Butterbrodt and those like him were right to blow the whistle. We need to make it easier, not harder, to do the right thing.

There is a pattern about whistleblowers. They tend to be treated like skunks at a picnic. They usually end up doing what is patriotic, only to hurt themselves professionally, maybe even becoming unemployed just because they do what most civil servants want to do—just have the government do what the law requires or how the money is spent according to law.

So I take the advantage—every time a Cabinet person or sub-Cabinet person comes to my office for their usual interviews before confirmation, I advise them, whether they run an Agency that maybe has 3,000 or 4,000 people to an Agency that has—I suppose like the Veterans Administration, which I think has 400,000 people—you are head of that Department. You don't know what is going on by everybody underneath you. You should listen to whistleblowers.

They all assure me that they will, but somehow the culture in our government doesn't seem to change.

ALUMNI FREE SPEECH ALLIANCE

Mr. President, on another point, I have spoken many times about the importance of our First Amendment freedoms. Our commitment to the open discussion of ideas is one reason why America has been successful. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly difficult to have these conversations and open discussions in our universities.

It seems like every week, we hear new stories about speakers being shouted down or new limits being placed on academic freedom. That is why alumni need to speak up. So my remarks today are about an organization called the Alumni Free Speech Alliance. Anyone who sees a radically different school than they graduated from needs to be willing to say so.

Today, I highlight the work of this organization, repeating their name again—the Alumni Free Speech Alliance. This group was created by graduates of several colleges who noticed that their alma maters were becoming more hostile to freedom of speech and academic freedom wasn't being followed. The Alumni Free Speech Alliance partnered with organizations of alumni at each of their former colleges to pool their resources. By working with those who support open discourse, they hope to make it easier to create these alumni groups at more colleges and grow the ones that exist.

They are right that alumni are often best suited to speak out about illiberalism on our campuses. It is understandably hard for students and faculty to speak out about the atmosphere of intolerance they live and work in. You know they are shamed, embarrassed—all of those things that are tools that shouldn't be used in any university that brags about academic freedom. That is where the alumni come in. Alumni can have an outsized voice in this atmosphere of lack of tolerance at some of our universities.

This is one reason why I recently joined the Senate Campus Free Speech Caucus. This Senate caucus aims to bring together Members who are interested in defending the rights of students on college campuses. In addition, I was proud to cosponsor the campus free speech resolution, which urges greater First Amendment protection at public universities. Just as with private alumni, Senators need to be willing to speak out and shine a light when students' rights are being infringed.

I have heard countless examples of universities putting an emphasis on superficial definitions of "diversity" that focus only on physical characteristics. The benefit of having people from different backgrounds is that they bring different viewpoints. But that whole concept of diversity is turned on its head if only one point of view is ever allowed to be spoken.

Universities do a disservice to their students if they just tamp down any idea that their loudest activists disagree with. Colleges should be places of debate and discussion, not enforced intellectual rigidity. Alumni need to be willing to speak out about these issues because, too often, people who are on that campus can't.

My definition of "university" that I have used throughout a lifetime is, it is a place where controversy runs rampant. It is a place where we ought to have civil discussions, respecting each other's points of view.

I don't know how many of my colleagues run into what I run into too often in Iowa at my town meetings. People proudly stand up and say: You know, there are two things I never talk about—religion and politics.

Well, if you are a religious person and God is going to have an impact on your life, why shouldn't you be willing to discuss that? You may be discussing it with a Baptist and a Catholic or with an atheist and with a Baptist or a Christian. Why shouldn't you be able to discuss that in a civil way because it is important to your life?

We all know the role of Big Government in our society, and we know the principles of representative government. Why shouldn't you be able to talk about politics? Republicans or Democrats or Socialists and Communists versus conservatives or whatever the case might be, you ought to be able to disagree in a civil way. It is the same way on the university campuses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

REMEMBERING DENNIS MOORE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for recognizing me. I rise this afternoon based upon an announcement earlier today. I rise in the memory of former Kansas Congressman Dennis Moore, a man who lived a life of service to our Nation. He was a friend, and I am sad to hear of his passing today.

Dennis, above all, was a kind man. He was a loving husband to his wife Stephene and a doting father and grandfather.

He was born in Anthony, KS, and went on to earn degrees from the University of Kansas and then Washburn University School of Law. He served our country with the U.S. Army Reserve and then Kansas for 12 years as the Johnson County district attorney. He was known for integrity and for a strong moral compass, which he carried with him to the Halls of Congress when elected in 1998.

Dennis's approach to politics was one-on-one, person-to-person, and oftentimes with his iconic guitar not too far out of his reach. It was this personal approach that paved the way for him to be the first Democratic Member of Congress from Kansas elected in that district in 37 years. As the Kansas City Star headlined today in their memorial to him, "Strumming a guitar instead of flinging mud"—doesn't that sound good?—"Strumming a guitar instead of flinging mud, Dennis Moore changed Kansas voters' minds."

He was a six-term Member, and in many ways, we spent those 6 years working together. He and I shared that period of time, and I have great respect for him and the way he served the people of the Third District of Kansas.

That respect for him only grew when I witnessed the way he and his wife Stephene faced his battle with Alzheimer's with a determination to use their experience to help others. They made a choice to make this private and devastating diagnosis public because they knew it would bring awareness to the realities of the disease.

Especially after his diagnosis and for as long as he was able, Dennis was a tireless advocate for the Alzheimer's Association. In 2018, I was humbled to receive an inaugural award in his name, the Dennis Moore Alzheimer's Champion Award, from the Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Kansas.

He was vocal about what he went through and sincere in his urging for others having memory problems to see their doctor. In his free time, he still kept himself busy strumming his guitar at senior centers.

One area where we always agreed was the need to invest in finding a cure for Alzheimer's, and in 2014, Dennis shared his experience with this harrowing disease in front of my Senate Health Appropriations Subcommittee colleagues.

The executive director of the Kansas Alzheimer's Association, Fe

Vorderlandwehr, had this to say about Dennis:

After Congressman Moore was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he became a fierce advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, championing the need for an increase in Alzheimer's research with the NIH. He became the face of the disease amongst his former colleagues in Congress as he testified about his battle with Alzheimer's and the need for research to keep other families from going through what he was going through. Through it all, he kept a wonderful sense of humor and his passion for music.

I leave you with the Congressman's own words, and he said this:

Alzheimer's is a bipartisan issue, and I urge my former colleagues to unite behind it, allotting the necessary resources to fight a public health crisis that millions of families just like mine are facing.

Dennis was a genuine, warm, decent man who lived an inspiring life that we can all learn from. His legacy will be the way in which he gave others battling Alzheimer's both courage and hope.

Robba and I extend our heartfelt condolences to his children and grandchildren and to Stephanie, his wife, and to all of those who knew him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Wyoming.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree.

On Thursday, President Biden came here to Capitol Hill to meet with Democrats over in the House. Just hours before he got here, economists sounded the alarms once again about the economy that our Nation is facing under President Biden.

Economic growth slowed to just 2 percent. Now, this is the slowest it has been since the post-pandemic recovery began. This was also significantly lower than even the experts expected. So there was a disconnect. It was really low and even lower than they expected.

Growth is slowing down; hiring is slowing down; and shelves are empty all across America. We have a growing supply chain nightmare. Prices continue to go up. I heard about it all across the State of Wyoming this past weekend.

So what did President Biden do in response?

Well, he ignored the alarm bells. He gave his blessing to the latest version of this reckless tax-and-spending bill.

And the new version looks a lot like the old version—just as radical, just as reckless, and just as unpopular with the American public. There is nothing really new in the bill except more budget gimmicks.

And it is interesting that NBC News, this weekend, came out with a poll that only 22 percent—only about one in five Americans think that, under Joe Biden and the Democrats, the country is on the right path. Seventy-one percent said we are on the wrong path.